

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMAKO 03663 011117Z

65

ACTION AF-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 3663

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, ML

SUBJECT: MALI'S PERFORMANCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

REF: USUN 4196

1. REFTEL REQUESTED DEPARTMENT (PARA 4B) TO REVIEW THE QTE INCONGRUITIES WHICH APPARENTLY EXIST IN OUR POLICY TOWARD MALI END QTE, IN LIGHT OF MALI'S HOSTILE ATTITUDE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND CONTINUED U.S. AID TO MALI. THE BASIS OF U.S. AID POLICY IN MALI AS WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD IT, IS THAT THIS AID IS PROVIDED BECAUSE MALI IS POOR.THE GREATEST PART, BY FAR, OF OUR PRESENT AID PROGRAM IS IN RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT. OUR AID IS THEREFORE HUMANITARIAN AND HAS NOT BEEN USED TO EXTRACT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS NOR TO ENCOURAGE A STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR.

2. THE PROBLEM IN BAMAKO IS THAT NEITHER PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE NOR OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (MCNL) HAVE IN THE PAST TAKEN UNITED NATIONS MATTERS SERIOUSLY AND HAVE TRADITIONALLY PERMITTED THEIR U.N. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 03663 011117Z

DELEGATION FREE REIN. THIS INCLUDES ANNUAL SPEECH BY

FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH IS PREPARED IN NEW YORK.
OFFICIAL MALIAN GOVT. NEWSPAPER L'ESSOR'S FRONT-PAGE,
BUT BRIEF, ACCOUNT (TRANSLATION BY SEPTTEL) OF CISSOKO'S
SPEECH AT UN SPECIAL SESSION WELCOMED THE DIALOGUE WITH
THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND MADE NO MENTION OF QTE
MERCANTILISM AND CHARITY END QTE, NOR OF CAMBODIA.
(MALIAN INTEREST IN CAMBODIA BASED ON FACT THAT LARGE
NUMBERS OF MALIAN TROOPS SERVED THERE WITH FRENCH UNION
FORCES 1947-54. SHIANOUK, AS AN EXAMPLE, WAS ACCORDED
HERO'S WELCOME IN BAMAKO TWO-THREE YEARS AGO.) GENERAL
TENOR OF ARTICLE WAS NOT UNFAVORABLE TO INDUSTRIAL NATIONS,
ALTHOUGH CISSOKO'S SPEECH WAS CLEARLY OBNOXIOUS. BOTH
FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES HERE GENUINELY SHOCKED WHEN
WE PROVIDED THEM ACTUAL TEXT OF CISSOKO'S SPEECH.

3. MALIAN OFFICIALS NOW OPENLY COMMENT ON EFFECTIVENESS
OF U.S. AID, WHICH BEGAN IN EARNEST IN FY 74 WITH ADVENT
OF DROUGHT AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF HUMANITARIAN AID
TO SAHEL STATES. REACTIONS WE GET ARE THAT MALIANS ARE
SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED WITH SPEED AND EFFECTIVENESS OF
U.S. EFFORT. THEY TELL US THAT WE WERE THE BEST, AND
THAT U.S. MUST REALLY BE SERIOUS ABOUT ITS RELATIONS
WITH POORER AFRICAN STATES. POLITICAL ATTITUDES CHANGE
SLOWLY, BUT WE BELIEVE THEY ARE CHANGING. I BELIEVE ALSO THAT
OUR BEST HOPE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN MALIAN POLICIES
TOWARD THE U.S. WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY MAINTAINING A
POLICY OF PERSUASION AND MODERATION, WHILE AT THE SAME
TIME MAKING IT EMINENTLY CLEAR TO ALL LEVELS, AND AT
EVERY OPPORTUNITY, EXACTLY WHAT WE CONSIDER OUR VITAL
INTERESTS TO BE.

4. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION AND
CISSOKO'S UN SPEECHES IN DETAIL WITH CHARGES OF BOTH
FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES IN BAMAKO, DCM ORALLY
BRIEFED EGYPTIAN AND SOVIET CHARGES, POINTING OUT THAT
U.S.-MALIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN NEGATIVELY
AFFECTED. ALL WERE SURPRISED AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE
DISCUSSING THIS WITH THEIR MALIAN CONTACTS, ALTHOUGH
WITH VARYING MOTIVES. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, AMBASSADOR HAD
LOBBIED EXTENSIVELY WITH MEMBERS OF THE RULING MILITARY COM-
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PAGE 03 BAMAKO 03663 011117Z

MITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE MALI'S
VOTE.

5. BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME COMMITTEE OF 24 TAKES UP
PUERTO RICO ISSUE IN 1976 (WE ASSUME AUGUST BASED ON
THIS YEAR'S TIMING), I SEE TEN-MONTH CAMPAIGN. EMBASSY
OFFICERS (DCM, PAO, CDO, ADMIN OFFICER, POLITICAL

OFFICER AND CONSULAR OFFICER) HAVE RECEIVED AND MEMORIZED TALKING POINTS ON PUERTO RICO IN FRENCH. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA, IN FRENCH, IS BEING STUDIED. WE PLAN TO WORK ON PUERTO RICO ISSUE WITH MALIAN CONTACTS THROUGH END OF YEAR. IN JANUARY WE WILL REASSESS TO SEE IF WE HAVE MADE ANY PROGRESS. IN ANY EVENT, I RECOMMEND THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL CALL ON MALIAN AMBASSADOR KANTE, STRESS TO HIM VITAL NATURE OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, AND REITERATE THAT CONTINUED MALIAN INTRANSIGENCEANCE ON THIS, AND OTHER ISSUES OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES CAN ONLY RESULT IN A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. EVEN IF AMBASSADOR KANTE OR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE GIVES US THE ASSURANCES WE SEEK, EMBASSY WILL MOVE ONTO SECOND STAGE OF CAMPAIGN: ALL EMBASSY OFFICERS, USING IDENTICAL TALKING POINTS, WILL GO BACK TO THEIR CONTACTS TO MAKE THE POINT THAT PUERTO RICO IS A SYMBOL OF A GREATER PROBLEM - THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES REGARDS CERTAIN ISSUES AS VITAL, AND THAT MALIAN REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE U.S. WILL ALWAYS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE TO EDUCATE INFLUENTIAL MALIANS TO REQUIREMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND TO ISSUES.

7. REGARDING CALL BY ME ON PRESIDENT TRAORE, I HAD IN ANY EVENT PLANNED TO SEE HIM NOW THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO BAMAKO. HE IS CERTAIN TO ASK, HOWEVER, ABOUT MILITARY SALES PROGRAM (PARTICULARLY PARACHUTES) AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO CLARIFY PRESENT POLICY AT THE SAME TIME. I WILL, OF COURSE, POINT OUT OUR
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PAGE 04 BAMAKO 03663 011117Z

OBJECTIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKO'S UN SPEECHES AND REITERATE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION. ACTION: REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
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